

and dedication and determination who is, indeed, I am sure my colleagues will agree, his words in his prayer offered up to God have blessed us and will bless us in this day of decision and dedication and determination for all of us and for America.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will receive 15 one-minute speeches on each side.

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#### TAX RELIEF WILL HELP THE AMERICAN FAMILY

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today is just another typical Wednesday for the average hard-working American family because, Mr. Speaker, millions of hard-working people will punch a time card at work in order just to put food on the table and clothes on the back of their children.

Yet, every day, the IRS takes far more than its fair share out of the average American's paycheck.

The continual greed of a bloated and inefficient Washington bureaucracy is being financed on the back of hard-working Americans.

Mr. Speaker, by providing meaningful tax relief, parents will not have to spend their extra time at a second job to make ends meet. Instead, these hard-working parents will have more time to spend with their kids or to lend time to their elderly family members.

Tax relief can bring about a family renewal.

I am proud to be a part of a Republican Congress dedicated to helping American families by keeping Washington in check, balancing the budget, paying off the national debt, protecting Social Security, strengthening Medicare, and reducing taxes on every hard-working American. Thank you and I yield back.

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#### PALESTINIANS NEVER MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MISS AN OP- PORTUNITY

(Mr. LANTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, as has happened so often before, the Palestinians never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity.

The President and the Secretary of State may be constrained by diplomatic protocol, but those of us in this House who follow these events are not. This summit collapsed because Yasir Arafat refused to budge. I pay high tribute to the President and his team. I pay high tribute to Prime Minister Barak, who has gone way beyond any-

thing that anybody could rationally expect in terms of compromise and giving.

I deplore that Egypt and Saudi Arabia again encourage the most intransigent position possible on Arafat.

Today, I am introducing legislation that would terminate all aid to the Palestinian Authority if a unilateral declaration of independence should be forthcoming. Such a declaration would mean new violence, and we cannot be party to it. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me.

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#### BORN ALIVE INFANTS PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, ever since *Roe v. Wade*, Americans have debated the question, When does life begin? Some of us believe it starts at conception, others at viability, and others, amazingly, not until birth.

But once a baby has been born, everyone agrees life has begun, and this baby is a new human being with all his or her God-given rights.

Well, what was once obvious seems to have been called into question lately. The Supreme Court shocked America recently by ruling that States may not ban partial birth abortions. Now we are hearing stories of children being born alive in abortion clinics and then left to die.

H.R. 4292, the Born Alive Infants Protection Act, codifies in law that, once a baby is born, it is legally alive. Unbelievably, the National Abortion Rights Action League and their allies call this a renewed assault on *Roe*. What they really mean to say is that, when a doctor botches an abortion and the child is born alive, the doctor should still have the right to kill it. How far we have fallen, Mr. Speaker?

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#### INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, this weekend I brought together international leaders at a luncheon in London to discuss the problem of international parental child abduction. This is an issue that touches families everywhere and an issue, to be solved, needs to be addressed everywhere. The luncheon was very productive, and I hope that it will lead to action by my foreign counterparts. National boundaries are no barrier to the transportation and victimization of children.

Today, there is no enforceable global system to attack and address this problem. Despite legal, law enforcement, and diplomatic mechanisms, many cases are not identified. Many children are not recovered. Many children who are located are not returned to their

country of origin due to legal and procedural problems. This situation causes anger, outrage, and pain for searching parents around the world.

Unless urgent and rapid action is taken, more and more children will be denied their most basic right, that of having access to both parents. The challenge is now to find commitment at both national and international levels to implement these actions. Family disputes and divorce will never go away. Parental child abduction, however, must be eradicated.

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#### OPPOSITION TO H.R. 4892, SCOUTING FOR ALL ACT

(Mr. BUYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court has ruled that the Boy Scouts of America, as a private organization, has the right to set its own standards for membership and leadership. This allows the Scouts to continue developing young men of strong moral character without imposing the mores on them that they find abhorrent.

Would my colleagues like a view of extremist liberal Democrats who seek to control this House? They have filed a bill to revoke the Boy Scouts Federal charter, a blatant attempt to undermine the Supreme Court's ruling and punish the Boy Scouts for their belief.

This bill promotes intolerance. The Boy Scouts respect other people's right to hold differing opinions than their own and ask others to respect their belief. Extremist Democrats believe just the opposite. They believe that if one does not subscribe to their beliefs and their view of the world, then one is intolerant and must be chastised.

These liberal Democrats are in error. Tolerance does not require a moral equivalency. Rather, it implies a willingness to recognize and respect the beliefs of others.

The Boy Scouts are a model of inclusiveness. Today, boys of every ethnic, religious, and economic background, including those with disabilities and special needs, participate in Scouting programs across America.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this extremist measure promoted by liberal Democrats.

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#### ACCIDENTAL HOSPITAL DEATHS ARE HIGHER THAN ACCIDENTAL GUN DEATHS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, accidental deaths caused by doctors and hospitals in America reached 120,000 per year. Meanwhile, gun deaths have dropped 35 percent. In fact, accidental gun deaths dropped to 1,500 last year.

Think about it. We have got hospitals slicing and dicing American people like Freddie Kruger, and Congress